

The Lamp Lighter
May 2018
The Newsletter of Living Lord Lutheran Church
Real God. Real Faith. Real Life.
www.LLLC.org

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:15 AM
SUNDAY WORSHIP AT 8:00 AND 10:30 AM

From Pastor William D. Leitch...On the first Sunday in May, we see that the image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve as Jesus came to serve. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.

The second Sunday in May, Easter’s seventh Sunday, is always taken from the long prayer Jesus prays for his followers in John’s gospel on the night before his death, and always includes Jesus’ desire that his followers will be one as he and the Father are one. This oneness is not mere doctrinal agreement or institutional unity, but mutual abiding, interpenetrating life, mutual love, and joy. This oneness is the work of the Spirit whom we have received but also await. Come, Holy Spirit!

On May 20, Pentecost, we celebrate the Spirit, through whom and in whom the people of God are created and re-created. Pentecost is sometimes called the church’s birthday, but might more appropriately be called its baptism day since the gift of the Spirit is the fullness of baptism. The Spirit is at work in the most intimate and personal way, praying in us “with sighs too deep for words” when we do not know how to pray.

Also on May 20, Alexis “Lexi” Stredney will affirm her Baptism. What does this mean? It means that she is giving her testimony of faith in Jesus as the Son of God and that she understands that she is made new every day because of what Jesus has done for her. It has given her freedom from the burden of sin and without that burden she is ready to capture the love, the joy, and the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us.

Lexi was a bit uneasy in her first catechism class. I asked her why? She said, “I am an extrovert who brings shy people out of their “shells” – my word – I was afraid to act for fear that I might interrupt the class.” I immediately commissioned her as a “junior leader”. My instructions to Lexi were simply, “You do your thing, but keep the class on topic.” Lexi did exactly that. When asked a question she did not understand – and of course the rest of the class did not understand – she responded immediately with her honest “statement of confusion”. No one else had the courage to express their confusion, but Lexi now gave everyone the permission to ask questions. Her leadership opened up the discussions and helped us go deeper. And oh, by the way, it was fun!

We will celebrate Lexi’s Affirmation together, but more importantly, we want to empower Lexi to continue to “do her thing” and serve the Lord.

Pr. Bill

Finance Chairperson Vacancy...If you would be interested in or willing to fill the Finance Chairperson vacancy, please contact Pastor Bill and he can discuss the position with you.

Church Information...Please remember that you can obtain church information from the monthly Lamplighter Newsletter, the Constant Contact emails you receive, on the church website (www.lllc.org), on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/Living-Lord-Lutheran-Church-493806727349110/>), and postings on the church bulletin board. Church Council Meeting minutes are posted on the bulletin board and sent out via Constant Contact. We would like to see a better “open rate” when we send information to you via Constant Contact so that we know you are being informed of the activities that are occurring at the church. If you have any other suggestions on how best to reach out to our parishioners, please see a Council member.

Camp Frederick Wood Cutting Day...Saturday, May 5, is Wood Cutting Day at Camp Frederick from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon at 6996 Millrock Road, Rogers, OH 44455. Bring out your inner lumberjack and join us for a great day of fellowship, all the while helping the Camp! Coffee and donuts are provided with lunch at 12:00 noon. Bring your chainsaw and log splitter. For any questions, please call the camp office at 330-227-3633.

From the President, Bob McKinney...HAVE YOU COMPLETED YOUR TIME AND TALENT SHEET AND TURNED IT IN?

Well, another month has gone by here at Living Lord. Our Committees are working hard on some exciting projects. Stacey Altieri, Youth & Family Chairperson, is planning a Bake-Off after the late service on April 22 here at the church. It should be fun. Rollie Walters and the Property Committee are getting ready for spring projects outside. Lorraine Bell, Later Life Chairperson, is working on plans for “I Love My Church” signs. Thrivent funds will be used to help pay for the signs. Judy Shaffer and the Outreach Committee ladies continue hosting Bingo at Niles Shepherd of the Valley. Nancy Walters and the Fellowship Committee continue to provide Fellowship Sundays. Darlene Altieri and the Parish Ed Committee are beginning to gear up for VBS in July. Jan Was and the Worship Committee continue to provide us with meaningful worship services. THANK YOU to all our Committees!

Karin and I joined Pastor Bill, Ronda, Sue Armstrong, Karen Bandy, and Earl and Pat Butts at the Camp Frederick Dinner Dance fundraiser at Zion Lutheran Church. It was a western theme and we dressed as cowboys and cowgirls. There were many gift baskets to bid on, a great meal, and good music (a little loud). This is such a good cause for our camp so please consider attending next year.

We had our first Bingo party of the year at Niles Shepherd of the Valley. Judy Shaffer and the Outreach Committee work like a well-oiled machine! The theme was spring and we all dressed the part. We had a great time interacting with the residents. The goodies were great (good bakers) and the residents, staff, and Committee members all enjoyed them. Thanks to all.

Pastor Ann Marie Winters of St. Paul is getting married on May 19, 2018, at 11:00 am, with a reception to follow. Pastor Bill Leitch and Bishop Allende will be performing the service. A lot of us got to know Pastor Winters better during our work with St. Paul over the past few years. She extends an open invitation to all and asks no gifts please as they are combining two households.

I want to make a few comments on our budget. We are watching our giving and expenditures very closely. At present, we are behind our proposed income to budget. You can see that on Dave Henderson’s last monthly report. We proposed a tight budget at our Annual Meeting and you accepted and passed that budget. As you know, we stretch our budget allocations as far as we can with the help of our Committee Chairpersons. We are

here at Living Lord Lutheran Church for worship and spreading the word of God and our budget has to let us do that. Summer is coming up and traditionally it is our slow time for attendance and giving. Please stay tuned as this conversation will continue in the coming weeks with updates and suggestions to keep us viable in our community. Thank you.

From the Fellowship Committee Chairperson, Nancy Walters...We will have Fellowship between services on **Sunday, May 13**, in honor of Mother’s Day.

From the Finance Committee, Treasurer Dave Henderson... The books are closed for March 2018. Receipts for March were \$10,186.23 and expenses were \$12,979.00, resulting in a loss of \$2,792.77 for March. So far, year-to-date through March 31, 2018, we have had receipts of \$37,866.99 and expenses of \$35,648.36 for a year-to-date gain of \$2,218.63. We started off the year with a great month in January, but are already starting to slip in year-to-date through March. This is not uncommon, as we have some large contributions historically in January. Let’s see if moving forward we can maintain a balanced budget month to month.

From the Later Life Committee, Member Lynne Walters...
Card Class...Join us for a card-making class on **Thursday, May 10**, in the Activity Room. We will be making 4 cards. The theme is “For the Fellas” (masculine cards). Classes will be at 2:00 pm and 6:00 pm. The cost is \$12.00. Please bring adhesives like double-stick tape and liquid glue. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. The deadline for signing up is Sunday, May 6.

From the Outreach Committee Chairperson, Judy Shaffer...
Bingo at NSOV...The Outreach Committee will be hosting Bingo at Niles Shepherd of the Valley on **Wednesday, May 23**, at 2:00 pm. We will meet at 1:30 pm to set up. Men and women both are invited to assist. Please see the sign-up sheet on the main bulletin board if you are able to help or bake cookies. We will be celebrating Spring by purchasing flowers from Living Lord’s flower flat sale and using these flowers as the Bingo prizes. If you have any questions, please contact Judy Shaffer at 330-856-3148.

From the Larry L. Maggiano, M.D., Memorial Scholarship Fund Committee Chairperson, Lorraine Bell...
Scholarship Award Presentation...Due to Pastor’s vacation and then Servant Week, the Maggiano Scholarship Award Presentation has been moved to **Sunday, June 17**, at the **10:00** am worship service. The scholarship is a grant from the Larry L. Maggiano, M.D., Memorial Scholarship Fund. The scholarship goes to eligible college or trade school students as determined by the Scholarship Fund Board.

From the Worship Committee Chairperson, Jan Was...In recognition of Pentecost, the Worship Committee will be decorating the worship space with red geraniums; please also remember to wear your red. Pentecost Sunday is June 3 and these geraniums will be replanted outside. Families/Individuals are asked to make donations to the geranium fund. You may request a memoriam or honorarium. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the main hallway. Please watch your bulletins for price and deadline to sign up. **Plants are to be paid for when ordering.** You may place your check in the offering plate or mail it to the Parish Office. Make checks payable to Living Lord Lutheran Church and mark “Geraniums” in the memo portion. Please help us beautify our church.

Summer Worship Schedule...We will begin our Summer Worship Schedule on **Sunday, June 3**. We will have services at 8:00 and **10:00** am.

From the Youth & Family Committee Chairperson, Stacey Altieri...

May 6: Living Lord & St. Paul Family Day...**Sunday, May 6**, St. Paul will be hosting a Family Day to kick off the summer! All families and youth are welcome to attend the Opening Worship Music at 12:15 pm followed by lunch at 1:00 pm. There will be hotdogs, chips, potato salad, dessert, and drinks provided. There will then be a corn hole tournament on the front lawn. Rain or shine it promises to be a fun, light-hearted day bringing people together in the spirit of Christ.

May 12: Mother's Day Flower Sale...Don't forget Mom! **Saturday, May 12**, our youth will be selling flats of flowers to the public in front of Living Lord Lutheran Church in honor of all the special women in our lives. Sales to begin at noon and run until every last flower has a new home! Stop by and support our children.

May 20: Pentecost...We are very excited to announce that there will be one Affirmation of Baptism during our 10:30 am service and at the 7:00 pm Eastern Conference Joint Affirmation Service at Zion Lutheran Church on **Sunday, May 20**.

June 10-15: Servant Week at Camp Frederick...Please contact Stacey Altieri if you have little ones that may be interested in attending. The more the merrier!

July 15-19: Vacation Bible School...VBS will have a Super Hero theme this year complete with capes, singing, and fun for all! More information to follow!

Please contact Stacey Altieri if you would like to volunteer for any of the above dates or have any questions or concerns.

From the Parish Nurse, Dora Muller...*"Bring down the stress, get back into balance, and learn how to take more time for you as you get in touch with your Peaceful Self."* Author Unknown

May is a lovely month with the signs of rebirth after a long winter. This time of the year is traditionally a cleaning marathon from the famous (or sometimes infamous) spring cleaning. After a long winter, we need to start with a clean slate and, sure enough, the stress of trying to do so much can be too much. Managing stress, either personal or professional, is not an easy task. We all need to take care of ourselves, which means keeping our stress level from taking over. Personally, I can attest that it requires a lot of self-control, patience, and prayers. In the past week, the news of my father's health taking a turn for the worse, the physical distance from my parents' home, and my life here in Warren, all took its toll. Balancing family dynamics, work, and the commitments to both my families here and in Brazil, I reached a point of feeling emotionally burned out from the overload - my mind screamed for news about my father, and my patients here needing my skills. I could have decided to run to my father's bedside or stay here. However, my love toward my husband and my son held me back. This dilemma has pushed me to that dangerous place which we all try to avoid - "I can't take it anymore" and just follow your instinct to run away. At this point, I decided to focus on myself and practice self-care by keeping still for a couple minutes, focusing on my breathing, and accepting that I shouldn't let my emotions take over. Not everybody reacts the same in facing stress, but learning to recognize the signs of stress and deciding to make a conscious effort to cleanse emotionally our minds will help to avoid an overload of burnout. In my case, it is my father's illness, to others it can be a divorce, an illness, being laid off from work,

or the last child leaving home for college. Life takes turns that are not always welcome, but we need to focus on our emotional health. Right now, I am managing to keep updated on my father's condition several times a day, and this weekend I spent a couple hours with my husband browsing through books at a gigantic book sale. We all need to have an activity to deal with stress that brings us joy such as physical activities or seeking the company of friends. Finally, each of us must have some favorite method of dealing with stress. For me, it is getting lost inside a second-hand bookstore. Stress is unavoidable, but how we face it can be manageable if we learn to develop our own personal methods of dealing with it.

Thank you... Many thanks for the delightful violas and Easter Egg! Nothing more cheerful could encourage the coming of Spring. We appreciate your thinking of us and blessed Easter to all. He is risen!
Love, Barb and Larry Wright

2018 LIVING LORD LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL

President – Robert McKinney

VP / Youth & Family Chairperson – Stacey Altieri

Secretary – Warner Taiclet

Finance Chairperson – Vacant

Evangelism/Membership Chairperson – Arlene Barkan

Fellowship Chairperson- Nancy Walters

Later Life Chairperson – Lorraine Bell

Outreach Chairperson – Judy Shaffer

Parish Education Chairperson – Darlene Altieri

Property Chairperson – Rolland Walters

Worship Chairperson – Jan Was

Treasurer – Dave Henderson

Financial Secretary – Terry King

EVENTS IN MAY

Sunday, May 6, 12:00 pm – Family Day at St. Paul

Thursday, May 10, 2:00 & 6:00 pm - Later Life Card Class in Activity Room

Saturday, May 12, Noon – Flower Flat Sale

Sunday, May 13 – Mother’s Day – Fellowship between services

Sunday, May 20 – Pentecost/Confirmation – Wear your red/**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

Wednesday, May 23, 1:30 pm – Bingo at Niles Shepherd of the Valley

MAY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

- 3 = Jean Frye
- 5 = Madeline Goussios, Lauren Lambert, & Keith Muller
- 6 = Sue Armstrong & Jo Maggiano
- 8 = Anthony Marrara
- 9 = Chayce Behnke
- 12 = Whitney (Crain) Pagano
- 15 = Katie Quinton
- 17 = Hanna Hunt
- 18 = Edith Holmstrom
- 20 = Jim Cohol
- 23 = Marge Shoemaker
- 25 = Sophie Cohol
- 28 = Stephen Prindle
- 29 = Logan Behnke, Madison Manes, & Mason Pagano

Anniversaries

- 12 = Wright, Larry & Barb
- 19 = Lucas, Robert & Alberta
- 27 = Gifford, Tom & Jill
- 29 = Peachman, Frederick & Jean



Living Lord and St. Paul invite you to Family Day: Corn Hole Tournament & Picnic

- WHAT?** A Family Day to sing, play games, and picnic
- WHERE?** St. Paul Cassel Hall and Front Lawn - Rain or Shine
- WHEN?** Sunday, May 6, 2018
- WHO?** All young people and families
- TIME:** Opening Worship Music 12:15, Lunch 1:00, Corn Hole to follow
- LUNCH:** Hotdogs, drinks, chips, potato salad, and dessert will be provided
(Thrivent Action Team grant)

Living Lord and St. Paul are launching youth and family events this Spring and Summer to involve younger generations in our church life. We are looking forward to a “Pre-school Sing-a-long”, an “Elementary Youth Kick-off”, and a “Teen Adventure”. A summer camping event is a possibility if there is enough interest.

Living Lord Leaders: Stacey Altieri, Darlene Altieri, Lexi Altieri
Mentors: Bob McKinney

St. Paul Leaders: Lyda Vigorito, Katie Bachinger, Drew Thirion, and Jacob Groves
Mentors: Liz Chapin and Debbie Groves